

Porto Alegre 28th december 2023

Answering Reviewers

I am sending enclosed the revised manuscript entitled “*SHOCK INDEX AND ITS VARIANTS AS PREDICTORS OF MORTALITY IN SEVERE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY*” to be considered for publication in the original article section of this journal.

We were delighted by the reviewer's comments which helped to dramatically improve our manuscript. We took our time to address the concerns our response is as follows:

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: This is an interesting paper which showed that the product of age and the shock index is useful as a predictor of mortality in patients with severe traumatic brain injury. As noted in Table 1 and in their discussion, the present findings confirm work previously done by others which showed age to be significantly predictive of survival in traumatic brain injury (ref 20-24). To make the article more interesting, perhaps the authors can compare survivors with non-survivors in table 1 as regards other simple clinical parameters (eg smoking, hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, obesity), and see if there is a statistical difference. Such a significant difference in clinical parameters between the 2 groups if present may point the way for the use of these simple clinical features in addition to age and shock index as predictors of survival in later studies, as age-shock index product was pointed out by others.

Response:

We thank you again for all the observations, and we addressed them all when revising the manuscript. We made several language polishing corrections throughout the manuscript. As suggested, we expanded Table 1, and included a comparison between groups regarding available clinical parameters, using Pearson's chi-square test. Overall, all suggestions improved the manuscript quality.

We sincerely thank you for your time and insightful comments on our manuscript and we have modified it to address all concerns. We believe that your comments have elevated the quality of our manuscript significantly and we hope you will be satisfied with our amendments.

Yours sincerely,



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